

community. I would like to personally congratulate both the Taylorville Junior High School and its administrators and teachers for their commitment and dedication to the improvement of public education for the students in my hometown of Taylorville.

CONGRATULATING KEN LEONARD ON HIS 400TH VICTORY

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my friend, Ken Leonard, on reinforcing his Illinois high school football legacy by becoming the only coach in Illinois history to record 400 wins as a high school football coach.

Ken is currently the head coach at the dominant powerhouse Sacred Heart-Griffin in Springfield, Illinois. This achievement actually adds to Coach Leonard's impressive list of accomplishments.

Ken has held the record for career wins in Illinois since 2018 and has led the SHG Cyclones to five State championships and three State runner-up trophies. Coach Leonard holds an overall record of 400 wins and 80 losses throughout his 42 seasons as a head coach.

Ken began coaching at Sacred Heart-Griffin in 1984, and throughout his tenure at SHG, Coach Leonard is credited with creating a winning culture and inspiring countless young lives. Ken's place in Illinois high school football has already been cemented but will forever be cemented more with this victory.

Ken, and your entire coaching staff, and the SHG community, congratulations on this historic win, and we are looking forward to many more.

#### CRISIS AT LAKE MEAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the water in Lake Mead has fallen to record-breaking lows not seen since the Hoover Dam was constructed.

Already, Lake Mead has fallen to just 35 percent of its capacity. And as you can see behind me, a bathtub ring taller than the Statue of Liberty surrounds the lake as a reminder of the water that was once there.

This is a crisis that we can fix only with new investment and innovative solutions, and that is why I am supporting the bipartisan infrastructure package and the climate and water investment provisions of the Build Back Better Act. It could not be more clear. Nevada is ground zero for the effects of climate change, but we also are ground zero for the benefits of this historic legislation.

The bipartisan infrastructure package includes more than \$8 billion for water infrastructure. This also includes my water recycling legislation that will invest in large-scale water recycling projects to help keep more water in Lake Mead for Nevadans.

There is not a moment to lose.

The opportunity is here and the time to act on climate and act for Nevada's water and future is now.

#### PROTECT PARENTS' RIGHT TO SPEAK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with students, parents, and teachers seeking a brighter academic future. From a student's earliest days of learning the ABC's, recognizing shapes and colors, to the moment they walk across the gymnasium floor to receive a high school diploma, their school days have been filled with learning and exploring, reading, writing, and math. Or they should be.

This, however, is not the experience of many of our K-12 students, especially not today. For the last 2 years, students, parents, teachers, and school administrators have been struggling with the global pandemic. COVID-19 has upended routines, hindered learning, shuttered schools, and angered families. These are real challenges requiring active listening and creative solutions. We need parental involvement. We need tutorial advice. We need school board engagement.

Parents are concerned with their children's education, health, safety, and well-being. Parents are concerned with what their children are learning, with what is being taught in the school system. Parents want to know that when they send their daughter or son to school, their children will be safe from bullies and predators. Recently, unfiltered frustrations have boiled over at local school board meetings.

Mr. Speaker, while I do not and will not condone violence, I was stunned to hear that part of the Federal response to rising parental concern with educational practices and pending school policies was to unleash Federal enforcement on vocal moms and dads. This is deeply disturbing.

One particular incident was cited as a catalyst for government's heavy-handedness. At the beginning of the summer, pictures of a dad tackled to the ground and arrested during a Loudoun County school board meeting surfaced. But what is the story behind the headline?

This dad was protesting a school policy that would allow biological males access to girls' private facilities. Why? Because his 15-year-old daughter was raped in the girls' bathroom at her school. The situation was expertly covered up and ignored by the very people responsible for protecting his daughter: the school.

School officials eventually called the police, not to report a serious crime against a young girl, but to restrain a distraught father when he discovered the school was attempting to sweep the assault under the rug.

One such horrific rape should be sufficient for every school district to review who has access to girls' safe spaces. Instead, this half-told story was crafted into a political narrative alleging examples akin to domestic terrorism.

Just a few months after this incident, a national school association letter demanded that the Federal Government respond to unrest, name-calling, and protests at school board meetings across the U.S. The arrest of this distressed father whose daughter had been raped was one of the examples cited in the correspondence to the President as a need for Federal intervention.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Justice validated the concerns raised, not by the father or parent seeking input into their child's education, but to the dubious claims raised by the national association.

Instead of adhering to the constitutional charge to oversee Federal issues, it disturbs me that the power of the Federal Government is being wielded to bludgeon everyday parents into silence. This must end.

Whether parents voice concerns about a lack of safe spaces for their girls, the type of curriculum that is taught at every grade level, or mask mandates, parents deserve to be heard, and every American has a constitutional right to voice these concerns to the government without being treated like a criminal.

It is time we start listening to parents. They are the best arbiters of their child's education, and they deserve respect, not contempt.

#### FREEDOM TO VOTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak to the urgency of passing the Freedom to Vote Act, which the Senate is considering today.

The events of the past year have exposed the fragility of our democracy, and Congress must act now to protect that most fundamental of American freedoms: the freedom to vote.

In 2020, we lived through the most challenged and scrutinized election in American history. But now, even after the result is beyond all reasonable debate, radical right-wing extremists and would-be dictators are still trying to overturn the 2020 election; stoking the flames of conspiracy, hate, and chaos in order to create a dark and twisted vision of America that these agents of chaos have embraced.

Unless Congress acts now, the radical right will keep using the big lie told by the former President and endorsed by his supporters to enact damaging voting restrictions and prevent Americans who have rejected their dark vision for our country from participating in our representative democracy.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, where I live, the majority in our